

MERIE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (3) MHINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

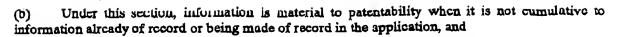
As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

IMAGE-EFFECT METHOD AND APPARATUS USING CRITICAL POINTS

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the specifica	tion of which
(check one)	☐ is attached hereto. ☑ was filed on November 28, 2001 as U.S. Application Script No. 09/994,850
	□ was tiled on as PCT International Application No. PCT /
and (if appli	cable) was amended on
I hereby sta	ate that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, c claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.
I acknowled	ige the duty to disclose information known to me which is material to the examination of this

application in accordance with Title 37. Code of Federal Regulations, §§ 1.56(a) and (b), which state:

- A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at th time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material w patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim still the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b) (d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through had faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:
 - (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application,
 (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution
 of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure the any
 material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.



- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by he Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burdenof proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability."

I hereby claim fereign priority benefits under 35 United States Code, § 119 and/or § 365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate filed by ment my assignee disclosing the subject matter claimed in this application and having a filing date (1) before that of the application on which priority is claimed, or (2) if no priority claimed, before the filing of this application:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Number	Country	Filing Date (Day/Month/Year)	Date First Laid-open or Published	Patented or Granted	Priority Claimed?
2000 365233 2001-110394	Japan Japan	30 November, 2000 9 April, 2001			Ye s Yes

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 United States Code, § 119(c) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below

Application Number

Filing Date

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §1711 of any United States application(s) listed helow and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in therior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Pederal Regulations, §156(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. OR PCT APPLICATION(S)

Application No.

Filing Date (day/month/year)

Status

(pending, ubundance, granted)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are use and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issed thereon.

I hereby appoint the following patent agents with full power of substitution, association and revocation to prosecute this application and/or international application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

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Our Ref.: 92637-15 NWH/mis/Jammay 10, 2002